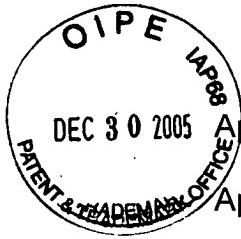


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B/IFW

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA                          Group Art Unit : 2851  
Appl. No. : 10/646,723                                  Examiner : Chris MAHONEY  
Filed : August 25, 2003                                  Confirmation No. : 9824  
For : OPTICAL ELEMENT RETRACTING MECHANISM FOR A  
RETRACTABLE LENS

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Sir :

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on September 10, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hiroshi NOMURA

*Will E. Lyddane*

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December 28, 2005  
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